



NEWS RELEASE

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OPERATION WEBSLINGER
**SIX DEFENDANTS SENTENCED FOR IMPORTING INGREDIENT
TO MANUFACTURE ‘DATE RAPE’ DRUG**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that six defendants were sentenced in federal court today, in two separate but related cases, for importing gamma butyrolactone (GBL) with the intent to manufacture gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), also known as a “date rape” drug.

Today’s sentencings before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey are the result of a nationwide investigation called Operation Webslinger, which targeted the illegal Internet trafficking of “date rape” drugs and resulted in federal charges against 175 defendants.

“This is a just conclusion to the first Internet drug distribution case ever prosecuted in this district,” Graves said. “These drug dealers were counting on the anonymity of the Internet to order enough GBL from a Canadian Web site for more than 2.4 million dosage units of GHB, worth nearly \$4 million.”

GBL is a GHB analog, Graves explained, meaning that it has a similar chemical structure to GHB. GBL metabolizes into GHB when it is ingested and it can be used in the manufacture of GHB, Graves said. Although the drug is legal in some instances, federal law prohibits the sale of GBL for human consumption. The drug is odorless, colorless and can cause drowsiness, dizziness, loss of consciousness and loss of inhibition.

GHB, popularly known as “G,” is a schedule one depressant. It has a euphoric effect similar to alcohol intoxication. It can also have an amnesiac affect, and for this reason, it is sometimes referred to as a date rape drug. Mismanagement of the dosage units of GHB is very dangerous, Graves added, and can lead to tragic results. Over 72 deaths have been attributed to GHB nationwide.

Kevin E. Riche, 26, of Kansas City, was sentenced to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 3, 2004, **Riche** pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to import GBL, admitting that he ordered GBL on numerous occasions and used it to manufacture GHB for distribution. **Riche** also pleaded guilty to the conspiracy to distribute GHB and to money laundering, admitting that he transferred funds through numerous debit and credit card transactions from Kansas City to the Bahamas, with the intent to promote the unlawful manufacture and distribution of GHB.

Curtis A. Geier, 30, of Olathe, Kan., was sentenced to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 4, 2004, **Geier** pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to import GBL with the intent to manufacture GHB, as well as the conspiracy to distribute GHB.

Chad Holte, 31, of Kansas City, was sentenced to three years in federal prison without parole. On May 2, 2003, **Holte** pleaded guilty to illegally importing GBL from Canada. **Holte** admitted that between Aug. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2002, he ordered GBL from an Internet Web site, for the purpose of manufacturing GHB. **Holte** placed five orders for GBL from the Web site.

Kendon K. Krause, 22, of Kansas City, was sentenced to one year and eight months in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 5, 2004, **Krause** pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to import GBL, admitting that she ordered GBL on numerous occasions and used it to manufacture GHB for distribution. **Krause** also pleaded guilty to the conspiracy to distribute GHB and to money laundering, admitting that she transferred funds through numerous debit and credit card transactions from Kansas City to the Bahamas, with the intent to promote the unlawful manufacture and distribution of GHB.

Kylie R. Lindsey, 22, of Kansas City, was sentenced to one year and three months in federal prison without parole. On Feb. 4, 2004, **Lindsey** pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to import GBL, admitting that she ordered GBL on numerous occasions and used it to manufacture GHB for distribution. **Lindsey** also pleaded guilty to the conspiracy to distribute GHB and to money laundering, admitting that she transferred funds through numerous debit and credit card transactions from Kansas City to the Bahamas, with the intent to promote the unlawful manufacture and distribution of GHB.

Kimberly L. Lawson, 37, of Mission, Kan., was sentenced to five months in federal prison without parole. On April 21, 2004, **Lawson** pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to import GBL with the intent to manufacture GHB, admitting that she received delivery of GBL from Candad over the Internet. These shipments of GBL were then manufactured nito GHB for distribution.

Two co-defendants have already been sentenced.

Dustin A. McKenzie, 25, of Camdenton, Mo., was sentenced on June 3, 2004, to four years of probation. **McKenzie** pleaded guilty on Feb. 4, 2004, to money laundering, admitting that he transferred funds through a debit card transactions from Kansas City to the Bahamas on Aug. 31, 2002, with the intent to promote the unlawful manufacture and distribution of GHB.

Benjamin B. Schilling, 26, of Kansas City, was sentenced on Nov. 5, 2004, to four years of probation. **Schilling** pleaded guilty on Jan. 8, 2004, to aiding and abetting others to import GBL from Canada on Aug. 31, 2002, with the intent to manufacture GHB.

These cases were prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow